United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ IAEA inspection team not allowed to carry out important inspection measures at Nyongbyon facility in Democratic People's Republic of Korea; cannot verify that nuclear material has not been diverted there.

+ Under-Secretary-General Annan tells Troop Contributors of UNPROFOR'S urgent need for extra personnel, flexible deployment, and improved logistics and transport capabilities.

+ Secretary-General leaves Argentina for official visit to Chile; tells Argentine Foreign Relations Council that States must make concessions to global concerns such as poverty, pollution and rights violations.

+ Erik Jensen appointed as Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Western Sahara.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says proposed expansion of UNAVEM II would cost $21 million for three months.

+ Widespread support expressed for peace-keeping memorial as Preparatory Committee for Fiftieth Anniversary of United Nations meets.

+ Experts meeting at Headquarters predict world economic growth of 2.2 per cent in 1994, compared with 1 per cent in 1993; foresee 6 per cent in trade and better terms of trade for commodity exporters.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced today that a team of its inspectors had been allowed to carry out some important inspection measures at the radiochemical laboratory in Nyongbyon during its recent two-week visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. As a result of that refusal, the IAEA could not verify that there had been no diversion of nuclear material at the facility.

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According to the IAEA, the aim and scope of the inspection had been worked out in Vienna last February. The agreed inspection measures were in line with Agency requests regarding seven declared nuclear facilities in the People's Republic, and were designed to verify that nuclear material had not been diverted after previous inspections. The Agency's Board of Governors will hold a meeting on the matter next Monday.

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Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, today reiterated that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) urgently needed an extra 10,650 troops, 100 military observers and 275 police monitors as a result of recent developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He cited the cease-fire and demilitarization in and around Sarajevo, and the recent cease-fire agreement between the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Croats. He told a Meeting of UNPROFOR Troop Contributors that the Force also needed the flexibility to adjust its deployment patterns to the changing priorities on the ground.

Mr. Annan noted that France had recently offered UNPROFOR an additional battalion of 800 troops and a reconnaissance squadron; the Russian Federation had offered 300 troops; Spain had offered 150 troops and 50 engineers; and the United Kingdom had offered a 900-strong battalion and some reconnaissance troops. Furthermore, the Czech Republic and Ukraine were expected to offer 500 and 600 additional troops, respectively, to strengthen their existing UNPROFOR contingents.

The Under-Secretary-General expressed the hope that any new troop offers would not include conditions precluding flexible deployment, and said offers to redeploy troops from Sarajevo and Central Bosnia "would not serve our immediate purposes." He also stressed that UNPROFOR needed better logistics and transport capabilities, particularly in the light of its dispersed deployment.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this afternoon concluded his stay in Argentina and departed for an official visit to Chile. The Secretary-General met earlier in the day with a delegation from the Argentinian United Nations Fiftieth Anniversary Committee and received a progress report on the country's preparations for the event. He also visited the United Nations Information Centre and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Buenos Aires, and met with their staffs and with the heads of the United Nations agencies with programmes in Argentina.

In an address to the Argentine Council for Foreign Relations in Buenos Aires on Monday, the Secretary-General said that a Member State's contribution to the United Nations did not depend on its military power, population size, or the strength of its economy. Much depended on the political will of a

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State's leaders, and Argentina understood the value of multilateralism. It had demonstrated its commitment to the United Nations, and had been instrumental in international efforts to maintain Latin America as a nuclear-free zone.

The Secretary-General also noted that since the end of the cold war, great powers no longer funded poor countries to gain allies. While the end of militarism was welcome, the loss of interest in those countries was not. He stressed that if conflict were to be avoided, States must make concessions to global concerns. They must now focus on the real evils: poverty, starvation, disease, pollution, the absence of democracy, and infringements of human rights.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Erik Jensen as his Deputy Special Representative for the Western Sahara, according to a United Nations spokesman. Effective today, Mr. Jensen will have authority for the United Nations mission in the territory and will be responsible for coordinating its activities in the absence of the Special Representative.

Mr. Jensen has served with the United Nations mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), as Chairman of its Identification Commission, since last May. He will retain his position in the Commission, which is responsible for the identification and registration of those qualified to participate in the referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has estimated that it would cost almost $21 million to expand the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for three months, as he recently recommended in a report to the Security Council. In an addendum to that report dated 14 March, he said UNAVEM II would thereafter cost $5.5 million per month. Those amounts would be in addition to the $2.1 million needed each month to maintain the mission at its current strength.

The Secretary-General had recommended that the Council authorize, in principle, an increase in UNAVEM II's strength to its previous level of 350 military observers, 126 police observers and 14 military medical staff. The extra personnel would only be deployed when a political settlement had been reached, or was imminent, in Angola.

The Secretary-General said that if the Council approved his recommendation, the costs should be considered an expense of the Organization to be borne by Member States. The assessments to be levied on Member States should be credited to the UNAVEM special account.

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The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations yesterday heard widespread expressions of support for a proposed memorial to honour those who had given their lives in peace-keeping operations. Gillian Martin Sorensen, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Public Policy, said funds for memorial could be drawn from the Nobel Peace Prize money awarded to United Nations peace-keeping forces in 1988. She said said that if the Staff Union, Governments or others wanted to contribute they should be able to do so.

Ms. Sorensen also described Secretariat preparations for the 1995 anniversary, including developing educational materials and cooperating with the international media to promote the event. She noted that 34 national committees were already functioning and that 30 had been designated, and urged Governments that had not done so to proceed with establishing such committees.

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The world economy should grow by 2.2 per cent this year, compared with a growth rate of 1 per cent growth in 1993, economists attending a four-day meeting at Headquarters said on Saturday. The economists, who belong to a network of forecasters known as Project LINK, predicted an increase of 6 per cent in world trade and better terms of trade for many exporters of primary commodities.

The figures were based on expectations of 5 per cent growth in developing countries, more than 3 per cent growth in North America, moderate growth in continental Western Europe, and slow growth in Japan. Growth was expected in a few countries in Central and Eastern Europe this year, but not in the States of the former Soviet Union until next year. The experts projected strong growth in 1995 as long as the monetary policies of developed countries did not become unduly restrictive. With persistent high unemployment in Western Europe, inflation was expected to remain at low levels.

The Project Link meeting, which was chaired by Nobel laureate Lawrence Klein, brought together experts from 50 national and regional economic institutes. It was held at the invitation of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, J.C. Milleron.

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